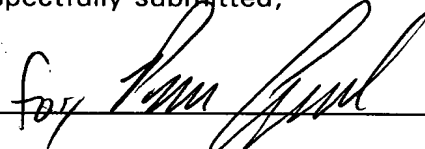


REMARKS

Preliminary to the examination of the present RCE application, please consider the above amendments. Claims 3-6, 13 and 14 are pending in the application. New claims 17 and 18 being added. Support for the new claims can be found in the original specification and claims.

The Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned if there is anything the undersigned he can do to assist the Examiner or expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

By  *REG. DO. 40888*

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Date August 29, 2003

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An interior material comprising:
a sound absorbing material layer including
first polyester fiber (A) in an amount ranging from ~~65~~ 50 to 95 parts by weight, said first polyester fiber having a size smaller than 1 denier, and
second polyester fiber (C) in an amount ranging from 5 to 50 parts by weight, said second polyester fiber including a component having a softening point lower than that of said first polyester fiber by at least a temperature of 20 °C, said second polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier; and
a first moldable layer laminated to said sound absorbing material layer and including
fourth polyester fiber (E) in an amount ranging from 5 to 100 parts by weight, said fourth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier;
wherein a total thickness of said sound absorbing material layer and a total thickness of said first moldable layer are in a ratio of a value ranging from 40 to 95 : a value ranging from 5 to 60.

4. (Original) An interior material as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said moldable layer includes fifth polyester fiber (D) in an amount ranging from 1 to 95 parts by weight, said fifth polyester fiber including a component having a softening point higher than that of said fourth polyester fiber by at least a temperature of 20 °C, said fifth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier.

5. (Original) An interior material as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said fifth polyester fiber has a size ranging from 5 to 100 denier.

6. (Original) An interior material as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising a second moldable layer laminated to said sound absorbing material layer and located at a surface opposite to the other surface at which said first moldable layer is located, said second moldable layer including said fourth polyester fiber (E) in an amount ranging from 5 to 100 parts by weight, said fourth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier.

Claim 7-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A dash insulator for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

an interior material including

a sound absorbing material layer including first polyester fiber (A) in an amount ranging from ~~65~~ 50 to 95 parts by weight, said first polyester fiber having a size smaller than 1 denier, and second polyester fiber (C) in an amount ranging from 5 to 50 parts by weight, said second polyester fiber including a component having a softening point lower than that of said first polyester fiber by at least a temperature of 20 °C, said second polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier; and

a first moldable layer laminated to said sound absorbing material layer and including fourth polyester fiber (E) in an amount ranging from 5 to 100 parts by weight, said fourth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier;

wherein a total thickness of said sound absorbing material layer and a total thickness of said first moldable layer are in a ratio of a value ranging from 40 to 95 : a value ranging from 5 to 60.

14. (Original) A dash insulator as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said interior material further includes a second moldable layer laminated to said sound absorbing material layer and located at a surface opposite to the other surface at which said first moldable layer is located, said second moldable layer including said fourth polyester fiber (E) in an amount ranging from 5 to 100 parts by weight, said fourth polyester fiber having a size ranging from 1 to 100 denier, wherein said first and

second moldable layers are positioned respectively to sides of engine compartment and passenger compartment of the vehicle.

Claims 15 and 16 (Cancelled)

17. (New) An interior material as claimed in claim 3, wherein said first polyester fiber (A) of said sound absorbing material layer is in an amount ranging from 65 to 95 parts by weight.

18. (New) A dash insulator as claimed in claim 13, wherein said first polyester fiber (A) of said sound absorbing material layer is in an amount ranging from 65 to 95 parts by weight.